



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

April 17, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Robert Raben *Robert Raben*
Assistant Attorney General

SUBJECT: Weekly Report for April 17 - April 21, 2000

The House and Senate are in recess. The Senate will return on April 25; the House returns on May 2.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Field Hearings on Drugs: On April 19, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime (McCollum, Chair) will hold a series of field hearings on the threat methamphetamine poses to communities in California. The schedule is: April 19 in Pasadena; April 20 in Redondo Beach; and April 21 in San Diego. DEA has been invited to present witnesses. We anticipate that the U.S. Attorney's Office will also be invited to present witnesses. (Tanner)

Pain Relief/Physician Assisted Suicide: On April 13, the Senate Judiciary Committee held over a substitute by Chairman Hatch for H.R. 2260, the Pain Relief Promotion Act of 2000. Chairman Hatch announced that pursuant to a request by Senators Wyden, Feingold and Gordon Smith, there will be a hearing on the bill on April 25, and that Senator Feinstein had agreed that there would be a Committee vote on April 27. The Hatch substitute does not address the Administration's concerns with the bill. (Tanner)

Radiation Exposure: On April 19, staff from the Office of Legislative Affairs and the Civil Division will brief staff of the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims on S. 1515, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments. This legislation passed the Senate last November. The Department has sent a letter to the House Judiciary Committee outlining some concerns we have with this legislation. (Pearlman)

Victims Rights Amendment: The Senate has scheduled debate on S.J.Res. 3, the Victims' Rights Constitutional Amendment for April 25. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Pearlman)

Agribusiness Hearing: On April 27, the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Lugar, Chair) is scheduled to hold an oversight hearing on the impact of agribusiness

FOIA EXEMPTION (b)(5)

concentration on producers and consumers. A representative of the Antitrust Division will testify before the Committee. (Slover)

Community Prosecutions: On May 4, the Deputy Attorney General will meet with Congressman Steven Rothman to discuss the Department's community prosecutions programs. OLA's Assistant Attorney General Robert Raben will attend the meeting with the Deputy Attorney General. This meeting was previously scheduled for April 11. (Scott-Finan)

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Worst Case Scenario: On April 14, staff from the Office of Legislative Affairs and the Office of the Deputy Attorney General accompanied staff from the Environmental Protection Agency and OMB to brief staff of the House Commerce and Senate Environment and Public Works Committees. The briefing was on the status of the rulemaking. In addition, staff from Justice Management Division, the Office of Legislative Affairs and the Deputy Attorney General's Office briefed Jim Morhard, Clerk for the Senate Commerce, State, Justice and the Judiciary Subcommittee earlier in the week on enforcement of the statute and budget implications. (Daley)

Campaign Finance Oversight: On April 13, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted to authorize subpoenas to Director Freeh and former Department attorney Charles La Bella for internal documents pertaining to the decision not to appoint an independent counsel to investigate campaign finance allegations. (Tanner)

S. 2448, Internet and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2000: On April 13, Chairman Hatch and Senator Schumer introduced legislation to enhance the protections of the Internet and the critical infrastructure of the United States. (Daley)

S. 2430, the Internet Security Act: On April 13, Senator Leahy introduced legislation which would authorize \$25 million annually in grants to state and local governments to prevent computer hacking and amend the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. (Daley)

S. 2340, the Amateur Sports Integrity Act: On April 13, the Senate Commerce Committee (McCain, Chair) favorably reported out this bill as amended by voice vote. (Daley)

Los Angeles Police Department: On April 13, Acting Assistant Attorney General Bill Lann Lee and staff met with Congressman Xavier Becerra to hear his concerns about the Los Angeles Police Department/Ramparts. (Scott-Finan)

Nominations: On April 12, the following nominations were approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee: Richard Tallman, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; John Antoon, to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida; Marianne Battani and David Lawson, both to be United States District Judges for the Eastern District of Michigan, and Mark Reid Tucker, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

On April 11, the following nominations were sent to the Senate: Berle M. Schiller and Richard B. Surrick, both to be United States District Judges for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. On April 13, the nomination of James L. Whigham, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Illinois, was sent to the Senate.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has tentatively noticed April 25 as the next hearing date for nominations.

DEA's Acting Administrator met with Senator Levin and staff for Senator Sessions in preparation for confirmation. Acting Associate Attorney General Dan Marcus met with Senator Sessions on April 13 in preparation for confirmation. (Scott-Finan)

Haiti Hearing: On April 12, the Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources Subcommittee (Mica, Chair) of the House Government Reform Committee held a hearing on the emerging drug threat in Haiti. Carl Alexandre, Criminal Division's Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance Director, DEA's Senior Agent-in-Charge for Miami, Michael Vigil and Mike Lopez, DEA's Special Agent-in-Charge in the Caribbean testified for the Department. (Tanner)

Privacy Commission Act Hearing: On April 12, the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology (Horn, Chair) of the House Government Reform Committee held a hearing on H.R. 4049, the Privacy Commission Act. The Department of Justice submitted views on the Act, generally opposing the legislation. (Owen)

Firearms Legislation: On April 11, the House approved by a vote of 358-60, H.R. 4051, a bill to give grants to states for implementing firearms laws, or for entering into agreements with federal authorities for firearms prosecution. (Graupensperger)

Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Legislation: On April 11, the House approved by voice vote the Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act, H.R. 1658. (Daley)

Visa Waiver Pilot Program: On April 11, the House approved by voice vote H.R. 3767, the Visa Waiver Permanent Program Act. On April 13, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved a similar measure, S. 2367. (First)